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PROGRAMME MATTERS REQUIRING POLICY GUIDANCE FROM THE COUNCIL

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

Strengthening three main units within the Office of the Environment Programme by establishment of Programme Activity Centre (PACs)

Summary

This document, an addendum to document UNEP/GC.16/21, presents one more subject in the series of programme matters that require policy guidance from the Council. In this document the Executive Director is seeking the approval of the Council to establish three new programme activity centres in the Office of the Environmment Programme: (i) the Global Resource Information Database Programme Activity Centre (GRID-PAC); (ii) the Industry and Environment Programme Activity Centre (IAE-PAC) and (iii) the Environmental Law and Institutions Programme Activity Centre (ELI-PAC).

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A. The Global Resource Information Data Base (GRID)

1. By its decision 13/1, the Governing Council welcomed the initiative of the Executive Director in establishing a two-year pilot phases of the Global Resource Information Database (GRID), and invited Governments to support it financially or through contributions in kind.

2. The mission of GRID was defined as providing timely and reliable information and access to a unique international data management service for addressing environmental issues at global, regional and national levels to help bridge the gap between scientific understanding of planetary processes and sound management of the environment.

3. Since 1985, with some two-thirds of its support provided from public and private sources, GRID has made significant progress towards becoming a major global information system, serving the world community by supplying environmental data, by providing geographic information system (GIS) technology support in practical problem-solving, and by supporting technology transfer, training and capability-building. Examples of practical outcomes in three areas are:

- The African elephant database developed by co-operating experts within GRID which provided the basis for catalyzing world action in changing the elephant's status in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), leading to a ban on the ivory trade;

- A joint project with the FAO Fisheries Division, which used GIS technology and remote sensing and led to the optimum siting by the Costa Rican Fisheries Department of aquaculture enterprises in the Gulf of Nicoya;

- Through technology transfer and training with UNITAR, with support from the Swiss Government and the IBM Co-oporation, a dozen new GRID-compatible national centres were set up in Africa (Botswana, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania).

4. There are now two GRID centres with direct UNEP funding: GRID-Geneva, covering the European theatre and global databases, and GRID-Nairobi, dealing with regional datasets and extension into the Third World. There are two self-funded GRID centres: GRID-Arendal in Norway and GRID-Sioux Falls in the United States of America. There is also a growing family of GRID-compatible sub-regional centres catalyzed with UNEP money but largely supported by donors, for example, in Bangkok (Southeast Asia), in Noumea (the South Pacific region), and in Kathmandu (the Himalayas).

5. GRID is rapidly evolving into being a significant programme sector, functioning between the processes of environmental data collection (i.e., GEMS, Earthwatch) and various sectoral elements of Environmental Management (soils, water, oceans, etc). Moreover, GRID is now large enough to consume a significant portion of the resources of its parent body, the GEMS Programme Activity Centre. If GRID is to serve effectively as a bridge between

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environmental assessment and management, it would be best located institutionally, as well as conceptually in an autonomous position between the two functional clusters of the Programme, that is, as an independent programme activity centre. This would provide GRID with the flexibility to serve effectively all elements of the Programme, as well as external agencies and Governments.

B. Industry and Environment Office

6. The Industry and Environment Office (IEO) was established by UNEP in 1975 to bring together Governments, industry and non-governmental organizations to foster environmentally sound industrial development. The IEO is located in Paris.

7. To this end, since 1975, IEO has been engaged in the following activities:

- Promoting the development and use of safer and cleaner technologies, as well as of environment management tools;
- Stimulating the exchange of information and experience through gathering case studies and publishing various technical reports, as well as the Industry and Environment Review;
- Promoting awareness and interaction between the decision-makers in industry and government by organizing seminars, workshops, and training activities.

8. In 1984, the World Industry Conference on Environmental Management (WICEM) was jointly organized by UNEP and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). Since that date, IEO has followed the recommendations adopted at the Conference.

9. IEO is also responsible for programmes related to transportation, tourism and the working environment. However, insufficent resources have prevented IEO from developing significant activities in these fields, especially the first two.

10. During the last two years, in accordance with Governing Council decisions GC.15/37 and GC.15/39, IEO has focused its work on two priority activities:

- Establishment and operation of a network of industries and organizations dedicated to "Cleaner Production". In the framework of this activity, industrial sectoral working groups have been established, a newsletter published, and a computerized information exchange system is being established (ICPIC);
- Development of the Awareness and Preparedness of Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme to prevent industrial accidents and reduce their impact on the environment.

11. In addition, to fulfill its tasks, IEO has maintained and expanded its query-response service, its bibliographic database on industry and environment issues, its industry outreach activity and the publication of technical reports and of the Industry and Environment Review.

12. Additionally, IEO has initiated and promoted activities in many regions and countries. For example, APELL activities are currently going on in Bahrain, Brazil, China, Mexico, Philippines and Tunisia. Training workshops on Hazardous Waste Management have also been held in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, West Asia, and Latin America.

13. IEO has been working continuously in co-operation with the United Nations agencies dealing with these issues, in particular with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Centre for Science and Technology for Development (UNCSTD), the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank. For example, letters of understanding have been signed with UNDRO and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), WHO and UNIDO in the field of technological accidents; others are in preparation, in particular with UNCSTD on Cleaner Production. Technical reports are jointly prepared (for example, on tannery and the environment with UNIDO, on mining and the environment with ILO, and on wood preservation with FAO). Thus IEO is clearly becoming a policy-setting and co-ordinating body for the United Nations organizations that deal with industry, technology and environment issues.

14. IEO's work has been closely associated with other international governmental organizations, and in particular the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Economic Community (EEC).

15. IEO has also created a platform bringing together the various entities most deeply concerned: government, environmental groups, industry (associations such as the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), and the International Council of Chemical Manufacturers, as well as individual companies). For example, the APELL and Cleaner Production programmes involve all the above groups, clearly demonstrating a partnership that allows sharing of experience and contributes to the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

16. IEO activities are related to most UNEP concentration areas: climate, ozone depletion, hazardous waste and toxic chemicals, ocean and coastal areas, etc. The policy orientations on industry and environment issues provided by IEO, as well as the information on cleaner and safer technologies, is needed to help implement regional programmes such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) or the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) programme recently approved by the LAC environment ministers.

17. At its second special session, in its decision SS.II/9, Section IX, the UNEP Governing Council recognized the role played by IEO in the field of transfer of environmentally sound technology and, in its decision SS.II/4, Section B, paragraph 4, requested the "Executive Director to strengthen the activities of the Industry and Environment Office related to the development of clean technologies in the field of hazardous wastes". The establishment of IEO as a Programme Activity Centre would give it the autonomy required to carry out all these tasks with maximum efficiency.

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C. Environmental Law and Institutions

18. UNEP's mandate to assist in the development of environmental law at both the global and national levels was clearly spelt out in at least eight of the recommendations contained in the Stockholm Plan of Action, as well as in the Stockholm Declaration itself. This mandate has been reaffirmed by the Governing Council over the years. In its decision 10/21, the Governing Council endorsed the conclusions of the Senior Government Officials experts in Environmental Law and adopted the Montevideo Programme. At the same time, the Executive Director was requested by the Governing Council "to take, in consultation with Governments and international organizations concerned, all appropriate steps for the early implementation of the specific recommendations for initial action" and called upon "Governments and international organizations ... to co-operate in and support the implementation of the programme". Pursuant to this mandate, the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit of UNEP (ELIU) has succeeded in developing non-binding principles and guidelines on various subjects, including Shared Natural Resources, Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources, Environmental Impact Assessment, Exchange of Information in International Trade in Potentially Harmful Chemicals. These non-binding guidelines developed by various Ad Hoc Working Groups of Legal and Technical Experts established by UNEP have been used by Governments to develop national legislation and regulations. In some cases, the guidelines provided the basis for enacting new legislation on subjects hitherto not covered by any national laws.

19. Concerning binding international legal instruments on the environment, a number of major international agreements, including the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal have been developed under the auspices of UNEP. In addition to developing these international agreements, ELIU has also helped to administer various conventions. Currently, UNEP is hosting the secretariat for the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention, CITES and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). Secretariat services are all provided by UNEP or its Executive Director, according to the specific requirements of the Parties.

20. ELIU is currently servicing the negotiations of a global treaty on the protection of biodiversity and is reviewing the advisability of transforming the guidelines on trade in toxic chemicals into an international convention.

21. The ELIU plays a major role in assisting developing countries, through training and technical assistance, to develop their own national legislation, establish or strengthen their national environmental machinery and accede to and implement international agreements or principles and guidelines on the environment. At the regional level the ELIU is now the central unit in the Office of the Environment Programme developing regional treaties dealing with regional seas.

22. Because the work of ELIU (a) cuts across a large number of budget lines; (b) deals with several units within the Office of the Environment Programme including OCA/PAC, IRPTC, IEO, Water; and (c) deals with a large number of international organizations and departments of the United Nations including its Legal Department, FAO, WMO, IAEA, IMO, as well as such bodies as the International Union for Nature and the Conservation of Natural Resources (IUCN), it is essential that this Unit enjoy a large high degree of flexibility and

autonomy if it is to discharge all its responsibilities at the maximum level of efficiency. Consequently, the Executive Director recommends that ELIU be set up as a Programme Activity Centre.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to:

Recall its decision 13/1 section II, part 2, paragraph 1 of 23 May 1985, in which it welcomed the initiative of the Executive Director in establishing a two-year pilot phase of the Global Resource Information Database (GRID),

Recall its decision SS.II/4, Section B, paragraph 4 of 3 August 1990, in which it requested the Executive Director to strengthen the activities of the Industry and Environment Office related to the development of clean technologies in the field of hazardous wastes,

Note with satisfaction that the Industry and Environment Office has, for a number of years, played an important role to promote environmentally sound industrial development, particularly through technology and information exchange, thus contributing to the implementation of decisions 15/37 on the promotion of the transfer of environmental protection technology and 15/39 on industrial accidents of 25 May 1989,

Note the progress made in the implementation of decision 10/21, in which the Council endorsed the Montevideo Programme, and of subsequent decisions in the field of environmental law,

Recognize that, in view of rapidly changing perceptions and emerging environmental needs, the effective implementation of the GRID, industry and law sub-programmes call for a more autonomous, sharply focused and flexible approach.

1. Decide to give the Global Resources Information Database, the Industry and Environment Office and the Environmental Law and Institutions Unit a greater degree of autonomy in fulfilling their functions by establishing them as Programme Activity Centres within the Office of the Environment Programme with the following priorities and long-term goals:

A. Global Resource Information Database (GRID)

(i) Environment management support

Priorities: Producing packages of options that are feasible for use by policy-makers in taking their decisions in respect of resource use and sustainable management of the environment within the context of development plans; providing an international forum for data collectors and information users to match data to needs;

Long-term goal: A fully-integrated and functioning United Nations based core GRID system of co-operating agency and national centres, openly exchanging environmental data and information and providing the necessary information management support to bridge the gap between the generation and the use of environmental data.

(ii) Environmental data management

Priorities: Acquisition, verification and dissemination of geo-referenced environmental datasets, as well as the development of methodologies for handling global and regional data;

Long-term Goal: All major existing global and regional environmental databases to be more effectively available through the GRID network in appropriate forms to a wide range of users, from students to scientists to politicians.

(iii) Agency support

Priorities: Providing access to GIS systems and expertise for supporting environmental assessments and practical environmental problem-solving at all levels;

Long-term Goal: All United Nations specialized agencies and most major intergovernmental organizations having access to GRID data and technology for the description, understanding and solution of environment-related problems.

(iv) Technology transfer

Priorities: Formal GIS and remote sensing training programmes in on-the-job case study applications and in conjunction with technical assistance programmes to strengthen national capabilities of developing countries in particular;

Long-term Goal: Providing access to GRID data technology to all countries in the world and providing most with functioning GRID-compatible monitoring and assessment centres for national environmental assessment and management.

B. Industry and Environment Office

(i) Promotion of the environmentally sound management of selected industrial sectors

Priority: To maintain a consultative process with industry and prepare and disseminate technical guidelines in a number of industrial sectors, including tourism, transportation and the working environment;

Long-term goal: To review the environmental implications of all industry sectors and the impact of improved technologies on the enhancement of the state of the environment, particularly with respect to air and water pollution.

(ii) Promotion of the cleaner production network

Priority: To establish and operate a network of industries and organizations dedicated to "Cleaner Production" through industrial sectoral working groups, a newsletter and a computerized information exchange system;

Long-term goal: To strengthen national capabilities for managing industrial development to avoid adverse environmental impacts.

(iii) Prevention of industrial accidents

Priority: Development of the Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level (APELL) programme to prevent industrial accidents and reduce their impact on the environment.

Long-term goal: Improved emergency response and prevention of industrial accidents.

(iv) Technical support to developing countries

Priority: Operation of a query-response service, establishment of database on industry and environment issues, training workshops on environmentally sound technologies (low-waste and no waste) and on hazardous wastes management;

Long-term goal: To strengthen national policies and capabilities for managing industrial development in an environmentally sound way.

C. Environmental Law and Institutions

(i) Promotion and implementation of global legal environmental instruments

Priority: To assist countries with the development, adoption and implementation of international legal instruments, including conventions and protocols, as well as principles and guidelines, with regard to the control or prevention of specific environmental problems;

Long-term goal: A coherent body of international law in the environmental field.

(ii) Formulation and implementation of national environmental legislation and establishment or support of appropriate institutions

Priority: To assist developing countries, through training, the provision of technical assistance for attending meetings, enacting national environmental legislation and setting up environmental machineries. This includes assessment of problems preventing developing countries from becoming parties to or implementing environmental legislation;

Long-term goal: National environmental laws adopted and institutions established in developing countries.

(iii) Information exchange

Priority: To collect and disseminate information on national environmental legislation and maintain a Register of International Treaties and Other Agreements in the Field of Environment; to strengthen and co-ordinate the use of existing information sources and databases;

Long-term Goal: An operational comprehensive database on national and international environmental law.

2. Request the Executive Director to accelerate the development of the Industry and Environment Office and its network to help ensure a free and open global exchange of environmentally sound technologies between East and West and North and South;

3. Call upon Governments and international organizations concerned to co-operate and support the development and application of international environmental law, assistance to developing countries through the provision of technical assistance to develop national environmental legislation, institutional building, and support of education and information programmes regarding environmental law;

4. Call upon the United Nations organizations and bodies and intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations System, as well as non-governmental organizations active in the field of environmental law to fully co-operate with the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of its programme;

5. Request the Executive Director to report on the progress of work under the new PACs at the next regular session of the Council.

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PROGRAMME MATTERS REQUIRING POLICY GUIDANCE FROM THE COUNCIL

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

Strengthening three main units within the Office of the Environment Programme by establishment of programme activity centres (PACs)

Corrigendum

1. Paragraph 8

(a) Line 2: after and insert world industry in co-operation with

(b) Line 3: after followed insert up

2. Paragraph 13

(a) Line 5: after (UNCSTD), insert the Office of

(b) Line 8: after (FAO) insert , the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

3. Paragraph 19

(a) Lines 7 and 8: for hosting the secretariat read providing the secretariats

(b) Lines 8 and 9: delete the Basel Convention,

(c) Line 10: after (CMS) insert and the Interim Secretariat of the Basel Convention

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REPORT ON PROGRAMME MATTERS REQUIRING POLICY GUIDANCE FROM THE COUNCIL

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

MODIFICATION TO THE UNEP MEDIUM-TERM PLAN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Summary

This document, the second addendum to document UNEP/GC.16/21, brings to the attention of the Governing Council the modifications to the UNEP Medium-term Plan 1992-1997 made by the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the General Assembly.

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MODIFICATIONS TO UNEP MEDIUM-TERM PLAN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. At its first special session in 1988, the Governing Council adopted the System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme 1990-1995 (SWMTEP), presented to it by the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) (document UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.1), and the Medium-term Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995 (document UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.2).

2. Following General Assembly resolution 43/219 of 21 December 1988, which stated that the next medium-term plan of the United Nations should cover the period 1992-1997, the Secretary-General presented to the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its thirtieth session from 7 May - 11 June 1990, his proposal for the United Nations medium-term Plan for that period. This proposal included Programme 16: Environment (document A/45/6 (Prog.16)), drawn up the basis of document UNEP/GCSS.I/7/Add.2, with modifications to take into account the postponement of two years.

3. It should be noted that in the structure of the United Nations Medium-term Plan 1992-1997, Environment has become a Programme within Major Programme IV: International Economic Co-operation for Development, while in the structure of the United Nations Medium-term Plan 1984-1989 (extended to 1991) Environment was a major programme.

4. Copies of the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination on the first part of its thirtieth session (A/45/16 - Part I) are available upon request. What follows is a summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, as contained in paragraphs 185-192 of that document:

(i) Recent mandates of the General Assembly, particularly its resolution 44/228, should have been reflected in the programme;

(ii) The programme on Environment was provisional in nature. It would have to be revised in the light of the decisions to be taken by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992;

(iii) There was no legislative basis from which to assign priority in subprogramme 2 to international water systems in the context of setting up multidisciplinary programmes for the environmentally sound management of water resources;

(iv) Subprogramme 13 on technical and regional co-operation was to be renamed "Global and regional co-operation";

(v) In subprogramme 6, the role of the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) and the objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction had to be explicitly specified;

(vi) The last part of paragraph 16.22 (a) (iv) had to be deleted. This part reads: "... and to ensure the total elimination of fully halogenated chlorofluorocarbons, halons and other substances likely to deplete the ozone layer by the year 2000 or soon thereafter";

(vii) Subprogramme 3 on Terrestrial ecosystems, was also to cover the protection of all forest ecosystems.

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5. At its forty-fifth session the General Assembly reviewed the report of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination, including the proposed Medium-term Plan for the period 1992-1997. By its resolution 45/253 the Assembly adopted the proposed Medium-term Plan together with the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and added several conclusions and recommendations. The main additional recommendation by the General Assembly related to the programme on Environment was the deletion of subprogramme 9: Peace, Security and the Environment and its incorporation of its content into subprogrammes 10: Environmental Assessment and 12: Environmental awareness.

6. The views of the Executive Director on the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the General Assembly related to the programme on Environment are presented below. He seeks the views of the Governing Council on these points.

A. Structure

7. In decision SS.I/7 the Governing Council

"Recommends to the General Assembly that the global programme on the environment of the United Nations medium-term plan beginning in 1992 be structured along the lines of the system-wide medium-term environment programme to ensure uniformity of content and to facilitate co-ordination of the environmental activities being undertaken by the United Nations system in the light of General Assembly resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987."

8. According to the United Nations Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Medium-term Plan, as adopted, constitutes the principal policy directive of the United Nations and serves as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budget.

9. In order to follow the above regulations and rules, the Executive Director has downgraded the status of the Programme Budget Document from that of a "major programme" to a "programme". This implies some loss of clarity in the presentation of activities to be financed from the Environment Fund as well as the introduction of a significant level of generality. Nevertheless, in order to keep the budget consistent with SWMTEP, he has prepared the draft Programme Budget Document 1992-1993 following the substantive items listed in that programme.

B. Provisional nature of the programme

10. The UNEP Medium-term Plan is derived from the SWMTEP. The provisional nature of that programme had been recognized by the Governing Council in its decision 15/21, in which the Council decided that the mid-term review of the System-Wide Medium-Term Environment Programme for the period 1990-1995 should be carried out in accordance with paragraph 411 of the approved text of that programme, which states that the evaluation of SWMTEP should be scheduled for the end of 1992 so that its results can be submitted to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session in 1993.

11. As the mid-term evaluation of SWMTEP will be made at the end of 1992, it will take into account the results of the 1992 United Nations Conference on

Environment and Development. The evaluation will constitute a basis for preparing the revision to the programme on environment of the United Nations Medium-Term Plan 1992-1997, which will be submitted to the Governing Council at its seventeenth session and to the General Assembly through ECOSOC.

C. Water

12. The UNEP programme for the environmentally sound management of inland waters, which includes rivers, lakes and groundwater acquifers, was initiated in 1985 in response to paragraph 2 of Governing Council decision 11/7 on programme matters, in which the council requested the Executive Director to ensure that the highest priority be accorded to the water programme.

13. The programme not only promotes the integrated management of all freshwater resources, but stipulates the highest priority for the preparation and implementation of action plans for international watersheds in each of the developing regions of the world. These action plans have been developed in five phases: (i) negotiation of a political consensus by the Governments concerned for a collaborative project; (ii) assessment of the technical aspects to be considered; (iii) formulation of a draft action plan; (iv) adoption of the action plan by the Governments concerned; and (v) promotion of its implementation. Legal instruments and institutional arrangements are developed as necessary for the implementation of these action plans.

14. In 1985 UNEP initiated work on the formulation of the Action Plan for the Zambezi River Basin, which was subsequently adopted by the Governments concerned in May 1987. The Governing Council, in decision 14/22, while noting the signature and entry into force of the Agreement on the Action Plan for the Environmentally Sound Management of the Common Zambezi River System, requested the Executive Director to assist the Goverments of the Zambezi Basin countries and regional institutions concerned to ensure that the implementation of the Plan started before the end of 1987.

15. The Master Plan for the Lake Chad basin was approved in November 1990 by the Ministers of Environment of the countries of the basin. Preparatory work for other international action plans is under way in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

16. In decision 15/1 the Governing Council called the attention of the international community to the need to concentrate efforts on a selected number of areas, including the protection of the quality of freshwater resources, and requested UNEP to give priority, among others areas, to the management of shared freshwater resources.

17. General Assembly resolution 44/228 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development included "protection of the quality and supply of freshwater resources" among the areas of major concern in maintaining the quality of Earth's environment.

18. In the view of the Executive Director, the relevent General Assembly resolutions and Governing Council decisions provide sufficient legislative authority to assign the highest priority to the development of multidisciplinary programmes for the environmentally sound management of water resources.

D. Technical and regional co-operation

19. The Governing Council approved at its fifteenth session the following strategy for subprogramme 13.1 on Technical and regional co-operation (Decision 15/20, para. 3):

Objective: To provide technical assistance to developing countries, promote skills formation and further regional and sub-regional co-operation to deal with major environmental concerns, and to advance environmentally sound sustainable development.

Strategy:

(i) To play a catalytic and co-ordinating role in promoting regional and sub-regional co-operation in responding to the major environmental needs of developing countries;

(ii) To co-operate in specific activities with Regional Commissions instead of institutional support;

(iii) To encourage design and implementation of projects of a multidisciplinary character exemplifying integrated environmental management and planning, whose results may be replicated elsewhere.

20. In accordance with the strategy, UNEP action on technical assistance to developing countries is implemented largely at the regional level, through the UNEP Regional and Liaison Offices and in co-operation with the United Nations Regional Commissions. Examples of the implementation of this programme are provided by the Programme of Action of the African Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean adopted at the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean.

21. Taking the above into account, the Executive Director believes that the title of the subprogramme adequately reflects UNEP's mandate as approved by the Governing Council. UNEP's global co-operation effort falls under the various items of the whole programme, not under this specific subprogramme.

E. Community preparedness for natural and man-made disasters

22. In accordance with Governing Council decision 11/7, the Executive Director assigns low priority to activities under this rubric. Nevertheless, in view of the importance of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), the Executive Director has included UNEP's participation in the Decade, with UNDRO as a co-operating agency, in his proposals to the Governing Council for the next biennium (see UNEP/GC.16/15).

F. Atmosphere

23. As indicated in paragraph 3(vi) above, the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination recommended the deletion of the following sentence from the Medium-term Plan (paragraph 16.22(a)(iv):

"...and to ensure the total elimination of fully halogenated chlorofluorocarbons, halons and other substances likely to deplete the ozone layer by the year 2000 or soon thereafter."

24. At its second special session in 1990 (decision SS.II/2), the Governing Council welcomed the results of the Second Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and requested the Executive Director to continue to give full support to the activities approved by the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. The sentence recommended for deletion results from the application of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the amendments introduced at the Second Meeting of the Parties held in London in June 1990. The initial provisions of the Protocol in respect of ozone-depleting substances are summarized below:

(i) CFCs

By June 1990: to freeze CFC production and consumption at the 1986 level;

By June 1994: to achieve a 20% reduction of the 1986 levels of production and consumption;

By June 1998: to achieve a 50% reduction of the 1986 levels of production and consumption.

(ii) Halons

By January 1993: to freeze halons at the 1986 levels of production and consumption.

25. However, at the London Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in June 1990, the reduction goals for CFCs and halons specified by the Montreal Protocol were substantially changed and an additional set of CFCs, as well as carbon tetrachloride and methyl-chloroform were brought under control measures as follows:

(a) Through the mechanism of adjustment:

(i) CFCs (those subject to the initial control measures contained in the Montreal Protocol):

By 1995: a 50% reduction of the 1986 levels of production and consumption;

By 1997: an 85% reduction of the 1986 levels of production and consumption;

By 2000: total phase-out of production and consumption.

(ii) Halons (those that were subject to the initial control measures contained in the Montreal Protocol):

By 1992: freeze at the 1986 level of production and consumption;

By 1995: a 50% reduction of the 1986 levels of production and consumption;

By 2000: total phase-out of production and consumption.

(b) Through the mechanism of amendment:

(iii) A new set of 10 CFCs that were not mentioned in the Montreal Protocol

By 1993: a 20% reduction of the 1989 levels of production and consumption;

By 1997: an 85% reduction of the 1989 levels of production and consumption;

By 2000: total phase-out.

(iv) Carbon tetrachloride:

By 1995: an 85% reduction of the 1989 levels of production and consumption;

By 2000: total phase-out.

(v) Methyl-chloroform:

By 1993: freeze at the 1989 levels of production and consumption;

By 1995: a 30% reduction of the 1989 levels of production and consumption;

By 2000: a 20% reduction of the 1989 levels of production and consumption;

By 2005: total phase-out.

25. Thus all ozone-depleting substances covered by the Montreal Protocol and its adjustments and amendments are expected to be phased out by the year 2000 except methyl-chloroform, which is expected to be phased out shortly thereafter (2005). It is the view of the Executive Director that the statement contained in paragraph 16.22 (a)(iv) is correct when the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol are considered together with the adjustments and amendments outlined above.

G. Terrestrial ecosystems

26. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination recommended that this subprogramme should also cover the protection of all forest ecosystems. The Executive Director welcomes this recommendation. The draft Programme Budget Document 1992-1993 includes under the title "Forests and other ecosystems" activities in tropical, temperate and critical areas, such as highlands in particular.

H. Peace, Security and the Environment

27. In its decision 45/253, the General Assembly recommended that subprogramme 9 on Peace, Security and Environment be deleted and its contents incorporated into subprogramme 10 on Environmental Assessment and

subprogramme 12 on Environmental Awareness. The Executive Director would appreciate guidance from the Council on this issue in view of the following factors.

28. At its session of a special character in 1982, the Council had, in its decision I, section III, paragraph 2 (j), considered that the area of peace, security and the environment was one of the priorities for action that should receive attention by the United Nations system, and specifically through the system-wide programme activities co-ordinated by UNEP.

29. The Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/186, indicates in paragraph 86 that "one of the roles of UNEP is to promote environmentally sound development in harmony with peace and security, and towards this end, issues of disarmament and security, in so far as they relate to the environment, should continue to receive appropriate attention".

30. SWMTEP 1990-1995, adopted by the Governing Council in 1988, included as justifications for this subprogramme (i) the elimination of the irrational use and depletion of resources due to the build-up of supplies of weapons and armaments and (ii) prevention of the damage that may be caused to the environment by military activities and their remnants.

The recent hostilities in the Gulf strongly support the justifications mentioned above.

Suggested action by the Governing Council

The Governing Council may wish to:

Take note note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination at its thirtieth session.

Take note of General Assembly resolution 45/253, particularly on the recommendation to delete subprogramme 9 on Peace, Security and the Environment from Programme 16 of the United Nations Medium-term Plan for the period 1992-1997;

Recall General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which states the main functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

Recall Governing Council decision 14/13 of 19 June 1987 and General Assembly resolution 42/186 of 11 December 1987 adopting the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and call attention to section III D on Security and Environment of the Environmental Perspective, which defines in paragraph 86 the role of UNEP on the issues of disarmament and security;

Recommend to the General Assembly the following:

1. To maintain the high priority assigned by the Council to the preparation of multidisciplinary programmes for the environmentally sound management of water resources;

2. To keep the title of subprogramme 13 as "Technical and regional co-operation";

3. To maintain the text of paragraph 16.22 (a) (iv);

4. To maintain subprogramme 9 on Peace, Security and the Environment as a part of the Environment Programme.

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PROGRAMME MATTERS REQUIRING POLICY GUIDANCE FROM THE COUNCIL

Report of the Executive Director

Addendum

MODIFICATIONS TO THE UNEP MEDIUM-TERM PLAN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Corrigendum

1. Page 1

The title and sub-titles of document UNEP/GC.16/21/Add.2 should read as above.

2. Page 7

(a) Line 20: for 20% read 70%

(b) Line 23: delete 25

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